

# RUM AND ITS RUIN

The Foolishness of Intemperance Set Forth

IN MOST POWERFUL LANGUAGE

By the Rev. W. J. Russell Before the Children of the Juvenile Templars of Temperance, Sunday Afternoon.

The Rev. W. J. Russell, pastor of the church of Christ, delivered the following address on the subject of "The Foolishness of Intemperance" before the juvenile Templars of Temperance Sunday afternoon. At the request of many who heard it, it is reproduced in *THE HERALD* this morning. He said: "That intemperance is a monster evil to our social, civil and business life, is axiomatic. It is the most gigantic evil on this continent today. The foolishness of this evil is a practical question for our condemnation. But why is intemperance spoken of as foolishness? Because of the fearful consequences which follow a life of dissipation. Alcoholic liquor is an over-comer, conqueror, a gladiator of more than human strength, and whoever enters the arena with it is sure to be defeated. To prevent such foolishness is the object of this paper.

**Folly of Intemperance.**  
I. Let us consider the folly of intemperance from a physiological standpoint. It bows down the physical organism of its unhappy victims. It is a disease of the nerves and tissues of the body, manifesting itself in the uncertain step, the unsteady eye, the flushed countenance, the blunted intellect, the impure breath and stupefied conscience. Intemperance is the parent of a long catalogue of diseases. The editor of the Toledo Blade, well known by his nom de plume as "Nab," says: "It is a curse for which there is no mitigation. The fearful devilish crushing a fisherman in its long, winding arms, and sucking his life blood from his mangled body and limbs, is not so frightful an assailant as this deadly but insidious enemy, which fastens itself upon its victims, and daily becomes more and more the wretched man's master, clogging up his liver, retarding his kidneys, decaying his heart and arteries, stupefying and warping his brain, choking his lungs and bronchia, loading his body down with dropsical fluids and unwholesome fat, fastening upon him rheumatism, erysipelas, and all manner of painful and disgusting diseases, and finally dragging him down to the grave at a time when other men are in their prime of mental and bodily vigor." Sir Henry Thomson says: "I have no hesitation in attributing a very large proportion of some of the most painful and dangerous maladies which come under my notice, as well as those which every medical man has to treat, to the ordinary and daily use of fermented drinks taken in the quantity which is conventionally deemed moderate." There is not a member of the entire body but that suffers from the ravages of drink. It even paralyzes the higher faculties, leaving the person under the control of the lower passions. The mind is so wonderfully connected with the body that each impairs its states and conditions to the other. Lawyers, doctors, merchants, artists, authors, ministers, men of every walk in life have been laid low by this destroyer. It is not the height of folly to thus use the body and mind which belong to God? It is his property that we attain to as high and pure a life as possible, and He will judge us by what we might have made of ourselves.

**Its Financial Folly.**  
The foolishness of intemperance is again seen from the financial point of view. It strikes with devastating effect the material resources of the nation. Dr. Forchheimer gives the annual direct cost of alcoholic liquors in the United States to the consumers, \$350,076,755. The indirect cost, usually computed at as much more, added to the direct cost, would be \$1,718,133,510 yearly. If every person in the United States would cease to use alcoholic liquors as a beverage two years, with the money saved he could build a new city as large as New York, and \$103,324,045 would be left to be funded for charitable and other purposes. "Add to all this the fact that the liquor traffic is the pernicious source of more than four-fifths of the ignorance, vice, poverty, wretchedness, crime and demoralization of the nation. You know there is everything behind these figures: disease, decaying tremors, murders, suicides, accidents, shipwreck—all these lie behind it. It is an appalling fact. Here in this boasted land of Christianity we spend \$270 for the purpose of fostering and encouraging this 'foolishness of intemperance' to every dollar given to home and foreign missions for the spread of the gospel of Christ. When will the American people commence to be wise in their own day and generation? May God hasten the day when light will shine to dawn!

**The Deliberate Power.**  
This monstrous horror enters the sacred domain of the home, and gazes at the crime occasioned there. Drink inflames the passions, dethrones reason, and converts the man into a demon. Browning the Boston wife-murderer confessed that he beat his wife to death because she would not give him her hair earrings to spend for drink. Burke the notorious Irish murderer, said he never felt remorse of conscience but once. When about to kill an infant, it smiled in his face. That smile of innocence touched his heart of stone. He could not perpetrate the cruel act. But he drank off a glass of brandy, then a glass stiffed his conscience and blended all feelings of pity. He then committed the cruel act without pity, without remorse. Can you show me a man in the world who would be guilty of such brutality as that, except when he was drunk? A lunatic would scarcely do it. It is the madness caused by drink that leads to such results. May we not exclaim in the words of Shakespeare, "O, thou invisible spirit of wine, if thou hast no name to be known by, let us call thee devil!"

**Moral Effect of It.**  
This great evil corrupts the heart, weakens the conscience, and debases the whole moral nature. This effect of strong drink is the direct calamity of all. It leads to overeating and destruction. "No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God." It is not foolish to surrender every hope of heaven for the brief indulgence of one gross appetite? Yet thousands of men have done it, and thousands more are following in their footsteps every year. Whatever views we may have of the future life, surely we do not expect to be welcomed into heaven by a crowd of belching drunkards. Their earthly lives were lives of shame and disgrace,

and their future is one eternity of torment. But foolish as it is, the worst foolishness is not in the habit itself, but in that system of government which licenses and protects a business which exists only as the habit is fostered among its people. If there is any rational excuse for the license system, it never has been made public. It is not without a wickedness to license a traffic which "pays" only as it debauches public morals, destroys private virtues and shipwrecks the bodies and souls of men. And yet this organized villainy is permitted to continue its work in destroying human lives. It is also a unit in debauching voices and defrauding the will of the people.

## THE MARKETS.

**Grain, Provisions, Etc.**  
CHICAGO, Jan. 18.  
FLOUR—Quiet. Spring Wheat Patents, 84.30; 84.40; Rye, 44.50; 45.00; Winter Wheat Flour Patents, 44.50; 45.00; straight, 44.50; 45.00; 45.50; 46.00; 46.50; 47.00; 47.50; 48.00; 48.50; 49.00; 49.50; 50.00; 50.50; 51.00; 51.50; 52.00; 52.50; 53.00; 53.50; 54.00; 54.50; 55.00; 55.50; 56.00; 56.50; 57.00; 57.50; 58.00; 58.50; 59.00; 59.50; 60.00; 60.50; 61.00; 61.50; 62.00; 62.50; 63.00; 63.50; 64.00; 64.50; 65.00; 65.50; 66.00; 66.50; 67.00; 67.50; 68.00; 68.50; 69.00; 69.50; 70.00; 70.50; 71.00; 71.50; 72.00; 72.50; 73.00; 73.50; 74.00; 74.50; 75.00; 75.50; 76.00; 76.50; 77.00; 77.50; 78.00; 78.50; 79.00; 79.50; 80.00; 80.50; 81.00; 81.50; 82.00; 82.50; 83.00; 83.50; 84.00; 84.50; 85.00; 85.50; 86.00; 86.50; 87.00; 87.50; 88.00; 88.50; 89.00; 89.50; 90.00; 90.50; 91.00; 91.50; 92.00; 92.50; 93.00; 93.50; 94.00; 94.50; 95.00; 95.50; 96.00; 96.50; 97.00; 97.50; 98.00; 98.50; 99.00; 99.50; 100.00; 100.50; 101.00; 101.50; 102.00; 102.50; 103.00; 103.50; 104.00; 104.50; 105.00; 105.50; 106.00; 106.50; 107.00; 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